

Serial No. 09/963,801

#### REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in the parent application.

The applicants also appreciate receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the examiner has initialed both listed items.

Claims 13-19 are pending. Claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Further, the applicants request rejoinder of claims 14-19.

Two paragraphs of the specification have been amended to clarify the identity of the surfaces in the drawings that form the claimed position-fixing sections, one of which is claimed in claim 13. These changes merely clarify the specification and make the specification consistent with the claims. No new matter has been added.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for the use of "and/or." This wording has been removed from the claim, and claim 13 is now believed to be definite. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berdan *et al.* (Berdan). Claim 12 has been canceled, thus this rejection will not be discussed.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berdan in view of Nomura *et al.* (Nomura). The subject matter of original claim 12 has been added to claim 13. In addition, claim 13 now recites the following:

"...at least one of the mount rib and the latch claw has a first position-fixing section surface, and the clip has a corresponding second fixing surface, and the first fixing surface engages the second fixing surface for fixing a position of the clip in the at least one longitudinal direction of the resin molded article."

Neither the patent to Berdan nor the patent to Nomura discloses fixing surfaces on both the clip and the resin molded article that engage one another for limiting movement in the longitudinal direction as claimed. The hooks 11 of the Nomura device engage the walls of the openings 5 to limit longitudinal movement with respect to the bumper member 1, but there are no engaging surfaces on the clip and the rib or the latch claw to limit longitudinal movement between the clip 13 and the facing 12. This is significant, since it highlights a fundamental difference between the Nomura device and the present invention. The clip 13 of the Nomura device must be attached from behind the bumper and is not analogous to the clip of the present invention, which is attached to a frontal surface. Therefore, even if these two patents are combined, the claim limitations are not satisfied. Therefore, claim 13 is patentably distinguished from this combination under section 103, and the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 14-19 are dependent on claim 13, either directly or indirectly, and are thus thought to be patentable for the reasons given with respect to claim 13. Minor changes have been made to the wording of claims 14-19 to clarify their meaning and to make them more readable. No new matter has been entered.

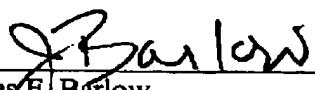
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With regard to the restriction requirement relating to species, rejoinder of claims 14-19 is requested, since these claims depend on claim 13. In other words, claim 13 is generic at least with respect to the elected species and the species covered by claims 14-19.

In view of the forgoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Although no fees are believed to be due, please charge any additional unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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